

The Jungle Book



I have fuzzy memories of the original animated Disney production of Rudyard Kipling's classic. The Kipling stories were the books of my childhood. To see how truly and realistically enhanced the tale could be told, in luxurious IMAX 3-D, is a real treat. Mowgli, convincingly played by Neel Sethi, is a young boy whose family are the wild beasts of the jungle. He comes of age as the result of conquering grief, loss and discovering his true identity. The characters really come alive with the vocal talents of Idris Elba, Scarlett Johansson, Christopher Walken and Bill Murray. Jon Favreau directs the story with pure reverence for the narrative and the characters. The result is nothing less than a pure Disney classic for the modern generation.

Watching *The Jungle Book*, I was immersed in the detail, the magic and the message that family can be where and with whom you make it. That hits home with me, and may help others to make friends along life's path so they won't have to go the journey alone. Using the talents you have in helping others and being loyal and brave are the qualities needed. Those are the bare necessities of life—to take direction and help from others and defend those you love. What else do we need?

We need more high quality movies like this one!! We need to use the great works of literature to help instill in our children the spirit of belonging to a pack, a tribe, a family.



April 28, 2016

Belonging to others is one of the most spirit bolstering and resilience boosting factors that we can all choose to have. Just be willing. Be willing to take leaps of faith, to face your enemies head on and to know yourself by your deeds and your accomplishments. To have friends and to be a friend is an essential skill.

Knowing who has your back in life is the key to survival in what can be a dangerous and cruel world. We make mistakes, take risks, learn our limits and our strengths and, in the end, we find our home where we leave our heart. No matter where or with whom, whether follower or leader, our place in the pack belongs only to us. I highly recommend this movie for children eight years-old and over. It is a rather long movie for younger ones. I would see it again. I give *The Jungle Book* five golden tickets. Get the big popcorn and enjoy yourself!

